

The Northern Tier Regional Planning and Development Commission (NTRPDC) and partners across New York's Southern Tier have been awarded a \$4.5 million ARISE grant from the Appalachian Regional Commission (ARC) for an innovative initiative to empower youth, enhance the workforce ecosystem, and foster career opportunities across the region. Funding was made via ARC's Appalachian Regional Initiative for Stronger Economies (ARISE), which aims to drive large-scale, regional economic transformation through multi-state collaborative projects across Appalachia.

"We're thrilled. A program grant of this amount, spread over five years, can have a lasting impact on our rural communities," said Frank Thompson, NTRPDC Executive Director. "Engaging with the youth of the region to increase career education, work experience opportunities, and positive employment outcomes leads to keeping the future of our workforce here."

Under the banner of the Twin Tiers ARISE Program (TTAP), the six partnering organizations are set to focus on eight counties within the Appalachian region including Bradford, Sullivan, Susquehanna, Tioga and Wyoming in Pennsylvania and Chemung, Schuyler, and Steuben in New York.

"Our Workforce Development Board connects educators, students and businesses through career coaching. This grant will afford us the opportunity to add new elements to the program and expand our reach," added Melissa Fleming of NTRPDC. "We are excited to share this model with our New York partners."

Bringing career coaches into schools helps bridge the gap between youth, educational providers, parents and regional employers. The coaches work with guidance offices to bring businesses into the schools, to take students out to businesses, and present work opportunities including apprenticeship, job shadowing and paid work experiences.

"We're excited to expand partnerships through TTAP and connect more students to occupations available to them in their own communities." Jody McCarty of NTRPDC said. "Our mission is to educate our youth that there are opportunities here whether their goals include a four-year degree, two-year degree, or to join the workforce after graduating."

TTAP partners in New York State include [Southern Tier Central Regional Planning and Development Board](#), [Corning Community College](#), [Career Development Council](#), [GST BOCES](#) and [Chemung, Schuyler, Steuben Workforce NY](#).

NTRPDC is a Local Development District serving Bradford, Sullivan, Susquehanna, Tioga and Wyoming Counties.



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Using funding through the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law, also known as the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act of 2021, ARC launched ARISE in August of 2022 to strengthen Appalachian business and industry, and to grow and support the development of new economic opportunities across multiple states. A total of \$227 million has been made available through ARISE to date.